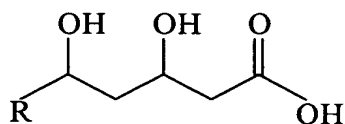


In the Claims:

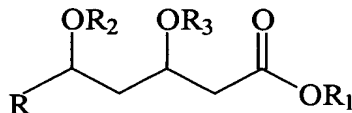
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1 – 42 (cancelled)

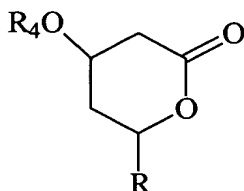
Claim 43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and calcium salt of a statin having the formula:



wherein the statin calcium salt is prepared by a process comprising contacting an ester derivative of the statin selected from the group consisting of:



and



with a sufficient amount of calcium hydroxide,

wherein R represents an organic radical,

wherein R₁ is a C₁ to a C₈ alkyl group, and

R₂, R₃ and R₄ each independently represent hydrogen, or the same or different hydrolyzable protecting group, or R₂ and R₃, together with the oxygen atom to which each is bonded, form a hydrolyzable cyclic protecting group.

Claim 44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising claim 43 wherein the statin is rosuvastatin.

Claim 45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising claim 43 wherein the statin is pitavastatin.

Claim 46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising claim 43 wherein the statin

is simvastatin.

Claim 47. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising claim 43 wherein the statin is atorvastatin.